support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Safety of tourists is generally a State subject and the Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Governments/Union Territories for the deployment of Tourism Police at important tourist centres/destinations to ensure the safety of tourists. The Ministry of Tourism has also launched capacity building programmes for service providers and stakeholders to make them aware of the benefits of the tourism and the need to treat tourists with care and courtesy, under the 'Atithi Devo Bhavah' campaign.

Development of surrounding areas

*387. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state, the percentage of profit made by Oil India Ltd./ONGC invested for the all round development of the area surrounding their project area in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and OIL & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have been undertaking socio-economic development programme (SEDP) for the all round development of areas surrounding their projects in various States including the State of Assam. As responsible public sector undertakings (PSUs), both companies have made it their corporate policy to earmark 0.75% of their profit after tax towards such programmes. OIL and ONGC have spent Rs. 16.39 crore and Rs. 4.72 crore respectively during the last three years towards these programmes in the State of Assam.

Air services in North East

*388. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of Tripura, particularly the students from Tripura pursuing studies in other States of the North-East are facing great troubles for not having air-flights between Agartala and Silchar and Agartala and Imphal;

(b) whether 50 seater air crafts will be deployed at least twice a week in the above sectors with an immediate effect;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) At present, no scheduled operators including private scheduled operator is operating any air service on Agartala-Imphal sector. However, Alliance Air is operating scheduled air service on Silchar-Agartala-Silchar sector as per the following details:

Silchar-Agartala-Silchar ATR 42 2 flights/week

Government has laid down Route Disposal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Alliance Air has, however, informed that constraints of resources do not permit air linking Agartala with Imphal with ATR aircraft at present.

Theft cases at IGI Airport, Delhi

†*389. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of theft registered at Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last one year; and

(b) the steps being taken to stop the incidents of theft at the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last one year, 25 cases of theft and stolen property were reported at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. In the Cargo Terminal 2 cases of theft were registered.

(b) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel have been deployed at the airports for Surveillance. Close Circuit TV (CCTV) systems have been installed at all vital locations for surveillance.

†Original notice of the the question was received in Hindi.